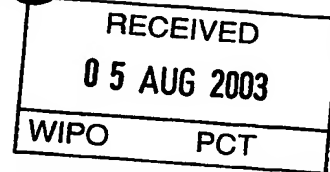


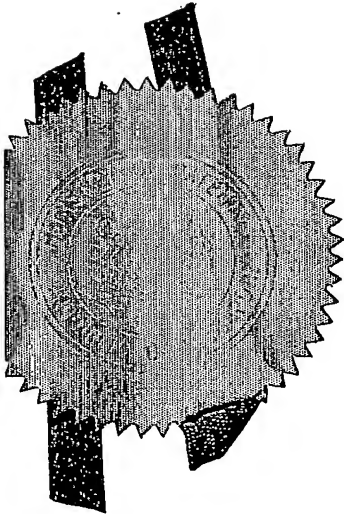
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**REGISTRY OF PATENTS
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This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following Singapore patent application as filed in this Registry.

Date of Filing : 04 SEPTEMBER 2002 (04-09-2002)
Application number : 200205376-7
Applicants : MATSUSHITA REFRIGERATION
INDUSTRIES (S) PTE LTD
Title of Invention : PIEZO-ELECTRIC COMPRESSOR WITH
DISPLACEMENT AMPLIFIER




Serene Chan (Miss)
Assistant Registrar
For Registrar of Patents
Singapore

29 July 2003

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DOCUMENT**
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COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE
REQUEST FOR THE GRANT OF A PATENT UNDER
SECTION 25



101101

* denotes mandatory fields

1. YOUR REFERENCE*

1003.P013/ADR/cch

2. TITLE OF
INVENTION*

PIEZO-ELECTRIC COMPRESSOR WITH DISPLACEMENT AMPLIFIER

3. DETAILS OF APPLICANT(S)* (see note 3)

Number of applicant(s)

1

(A) Name

MATSUSHITA REFRIGERATION INDUSTRIES (S) PTE LTD

Address

NO. 1 BEDOK SOUTH ROAD
SINGAPORE 469267

State

SG

Country

SG

☒ For corporate applicant

☐ For individual applicant

State of incorporation

SG

State of residency

Country of incorporation

SG

Country of residency

☐ For others (please specify in the box provided below)

(B) Name

Address

State

Country



04 SEP 2002
200205376-7



☐

For corporate applicant

☐

For individual applicant

State of incorporation

State of residency

Country of incorporation

Country of residency

☐

For others (please specify in the box provided below)

(C) Name

Address

State

Country

☐

For corporate applicant

☐

For individual applicant

State of incorporation

State of residency

Country of incorporation

Country of residency

☐

For others (please specify in the box provided below)

☐

Further applicants are to be indicated on continuation sheet 1

4. DECLARATION OF PRIORITY (see note 5)

A. Country/country designated

DD MM YYYY

File number

Filing Date

B. Country/country designated

DD MM YYYY

File number

Filing Date

☐

Further details are to be indicated on continuation sheet 6

5. INVENTOR(S)* (see note 6)

A. The applicant(s) is/are the sole/joint inventor(s)

Yes

☐

No

☒

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05 SEP 2002

B. A statement on Patents Form 8 is/will be furnished

Yes

☒

No

☐

6. CLAIMING AN EARLIER FILING DATE UNDER (see note 7)

☐

section 20(3)

☐

section 26(6)

☐

section 47(4)

Patent application number

DD MM YYYY

Filing Date

Please mark with a cross in the relevant checkbox provided below
(Note: Only one checkbox may be crossed.)

☐

Proceedings under rule 27(1)(a)

DD MM YYYY

Date on which the earlier application was amended

☐

Proceedings under rule 27(1)(b)

7. SECTION 14(4)(C) REQUIREMENTS (see note 8)

Invention has been displayed at an international exhibition. Yes

☐

No

☒

8. SECTION 114 REQUIREMENTS (see note 9)

The invention relates to and/or used a micro-organism deposited for the purposes of disclosure in accordance with section 114 with a depository authority under the Budapest Treaty.

Yes

☐

No

☒

9. CHECKLIST*

(A) The application consists of the following number of sheets

i. Request

5

Sheets

ii. Description

10

Sheets

iii. Claim(s)

4

Sheets

iv. Drawing(s)

2

Sheets

v.

Abstract
(Note: The figure of the drawing,
if any, should accompany the
abstract)

1

Sheets

Total number of sheets

22

Sheets

(B) The application as filed is accompanied by:

☐

Priority document(s)

☐

Translation of priority document(s)

☒

Statement of inventorship
& right to grant

☐

International exhibition certificate

10. DETAILS OF AGENT (see notes 10, 11 and 12)

Name

Firm

LAWRENCE Y D HO & ASSOCIATES PTE LTD

11. ADDRESS FOR SERVICE IN SINGAPORE* (see note 10)

Block/Hse No.

30

Level No.

07

Unit No./PO Box

01

Street Name

BIDEFORD ROAD

Building Name

THONGSIA BUILDING

Postal Code

229922

12. NAME, SIGNATURE AND DECLARATION (WHERE APPROPRIATE) OF APPLICANT OR AGENT* (see note 12)
(Note: Please cross the box below where appropriate.)

☒

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that I have been duly authorised to act as representative, for the purposes of this application, on behalf of the applicant(s) named in paragraph 3 herein.

Ly Ho

Name and Signature

DD MM YYYY

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NOTES:

1. This form when completed, should be brought or sent to the Registry of Patents together with the rest of the application. Please note that the filing fee should be furnished within the period prescribed.
2. The relevant checkboxes as indicated in bold should be marked with a cross where applicable.
3. Enter the name and address of each applicant in the spaces provided in paragraph 3.
 - Where the applicant is an individual
 - Names of individuals should be indicated in full and the surname or family name should be underlined.
 - The address of each individual should also be furnished in the space provided.
 - The checkbox for "For Individual applicant" should be marked with a cross.
 - Where the applicant is a body corporate
 - Bodies corporate should be designated by their corporate name and country of incorporation and, where appropriate, the state of incorporation within that country should be entered where provided.
 - The address of the body corporate should also be furnished in the space provided.
 - The checkbox for "For corporate applicant" should be marked with a cross.
 - Where the applicant is a partnership
 - The details of all partners must be provided. The name of each partner should be indicated in full and the surname or family name should be underlined.
 - The address of each partner should also be furnished in the space provided.
 - The checkbox for "For others" should be marked with a cross and the name and address of the partnership should be indicated in the box provided.
4. In the field for "Country", please refer to the standard list of country codes made available by the Registry of Patents and enter the country code corresponding to the country in question.
5. The declaration of priority in paragraph 4 should state the date of the previous filing, the country in which it was made, and indicate the file number, if available. Where the application relied upon in an International Application or a regional patent application e.g. European patent application, one of the countries designated in that application [being one falling under section 17 of the Patents Act] should be identified and the country should be entered in the space provided.
6. Where the applicant or applicants is/are the sole inventor or the joint inventors, paragraph 5 should be completed by marking with a cross the 'YES' checkbox in the declaration (A) and the 'NO' checkbox in the alternative statement (B). Where this is not the case, the 'NO' checkbox in declaration (A) should be marked with a cross and a statement will be required to be filed on Patents Form 8.
7. When an application is made by virtue of section 20(3), 26(6) or 47(4), the appropriate section should be identified in paragraph 6 and the number of the earlier application or any patent granted thereon identified. Applicants proceeding under section 26(6) should identify which provision in rule 27 they are proceeding under. If the applicants are proceeding under rule 27(1)(a), they should also indicate the date on which the earlier application was amended.
8. Where the applicant wishes an earlier disclosure of the invention by him at an International Exhibition to be disregarded in accordance with section 14(4)(c), then the 'YES' checkbox at paragraph 7 should be marked with a cross. Otherwise, the 'NO' checkbox should be marked with a cross.
9. Where in disclosing the invention the application refers to one or more micro-organisms deposited with a depository authority under the Budapest Treaty, then the 'YES' checkbox at paragraph 8 should be marked with a cross. Otherwise, the 'NO' checkbox should be marked with a cross. Attention is also drawn to the Fourth Schedule of the Patents Rules.
10. Where an agent is appointed, the fields for "DETAILS OF AGENT" and "ADDRESS FOR SERVICE IN SINGAPORE" should be completed and they should be the same as those found in the corresponding Patents Form 41. In the event where no agent is appointed, the field for "ADDRESS FOR SERVICE IN SINGAPORE" should be completed, leaving the field for "DETAILS OF AGENT" blank.
11. In the event where an individual is appointed as an agent, the sub-field "Name" under "DETAILS OF AGENT" must be completed by entering the full name of the individual. The sub-field "Firm" may be left blank. In the event where a partnership/body corporate is appointed as an agent, the sub-field "Firm" under "DETAILS OF AGENT" must be completed by entering the name of the partnership/body corporate. The sub-field "Name" may be left blank.
12. Attention is drawn to sections 104 and 105 of the Patents Act, rules 90 and 105 of the Patents Rules, and the Patents (Patent Agents) Rules 2001.
13. Applicants resident in Singapore are reminded that if the Registry of Patents considers that an application contains information the publication of which might be prejudicial to the defence of Singapore or the safety of the public, it may prohibit or restrict its publication or communication. Any person resident in Singapore and wishing to apply for patent protection in other countries must first obtain permission from the Singapore Registry of Patents unless they have already applied for a patent for the same invention in Singapore. In the latter case, no application should be made overseas until at least 2 months after the application has been filed in Singapore, and unless no directions had been issued under section 33 by the Registrar or such directions have been revoked. Attention is drawn to sections 33 and 34 of the Patents Act.
14. If the space provided in the patents form is not enough, the additional information should be entered in the relevant continuation sheet. Please note that the continuation sheets need not be filed with the Registry of Patents if they are not used.

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PIEZO-ELECTRIC COMPRESSOR WITH DISPLACEMENT AMPLIFIER

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to fluid compressors. In particular, this invention relates to use of a piezoelectric apparatus in fluid compressors and pumps.

Background of the Invention

[0002] Reciprocating compressors are positive displacement compressors. Positive displacement compressors take in successive volumes of a fluid which are confined within a substantially closed chamber and are forced to a higher pressure or undergoes compression. A reciprocating compressor achieves this by using a piston within a cylinder (piston cylinder assembly) as the compressing element. A fluid may be a gas or a liquid and may be both when referring to a refrigerant depending on the fluid pressure.

[0003] A reciprocating compressor uses at least two one-way valves in each cylinder that open only when a predetermined differential pressure is applied across such valves. Suction one-way valves (hereafter referred to as suction valves) open when fluid pressure in the cylinder decreases allowing a fluid to enter into the cylinder. Discharge one-way valves (hereafter referred to as discharge valves) open when at the end of the compression, fluid pressure in the cylinder increases to force the fluid out of the cylinder. This succession of suction and discharge of the fluid results in the fluid discharging at a higher pressure.

[0004] To achieve this succession of suction and discharge of fluid from the cylinder, the piston has to undergo a linear reciprocating movement in the cylinder. Referring to FIG.1, that shows a conventional reciprocating compressor, a piston cylinder assembly comprises a suction plenum 11, a discharge plenum 12, a suction

valve 13, a discharge valve 14, a cylinder 15, a cylinder bore 21 and a piston 16. Such a piston cylinder assembly is known in the art.

[0005] Linear reciprocating movement of the piston 16 for the operation of the reciprocating compressor in suction and discharge of fluid is provided by a mechanical assembly such as, for example a rotary motor assembly. The rotary motor assembly comprises a rotary motor 19, a crank 18 and a connecting rod 17. Rotation of the rotary motor 19 is translated by the crank 18 and the connecting rod 17 into a linear up/down or forward/backward movement that provides the linear reciprocating movement required in the operation of the reciprocating compressor. A downward movement of the piston 16 decreases the pressure in the cylinder bore 21 to open the suction valve 13. Consequently, the fluid is drawn into the cylinder bore 21 through the suction plenum 11. This downward movement of the piston 16 is referred to as a suction stroke.

[0006] On the other hand, an upward movement of the piston 16 compresses the fluid causing an increase in the fluid pressure, and resulting in the suction valve 13 closing and the discharge valve 14 opening. As such, the fluid is forced from the cylinder bore 21 into the discharge plenum 12. This upward movement of the piston 16 is referred to as a discharge stroke.

[0007] The above rotary motor assembly makes use of several mechanical linkages and result in many moving parts. However, such a rotary motor assembly is unnecessarily complicated and requires extensive maintenance by way of lubrication and changing of linkages. Non-in-line mechanical forces acting on the piston 16, cause excessive vibrations and noise. Furthermore, the above rotary motor assembly is prone to mechanical failure due to wear and tear.

[0008] An alternative to using a rotary motor assembly is to use a linear actuator. Linear actuators are known in the art and many of such actuators use piezoelectric elements. Generally, the piezoelectric elements in such actuators convert electrical energy into mechanical energy. In piezoelectric actuators, electrical energy is

applied to one or more piezoelectric elements to deform the piezoelectric elements and thereby physically actuate at least one other element. A limitation with existing piezoelectric actuators is that physical deformation of piezoelectric elements is relatively small. Consequently, applications using piezoelectric actuators are limited to miniature devices. Typically, displacement required in such miniature devices ranges from microns to millimeters.

[0009] To overcome the relatively small displacement of piezoelectric actuators, US Patent 5,063,542 Petermann et al. describes a displacement amplifier that interconnects a piezoelectric actuator with a displacement member. The piezoelectric actuator has bellow members that define liquid-filled expansible chambers and respond to linear displacement of piezoelectric disks to provide an amplified linear displacement to the displacement member. However, a problem with the displacement amplifier of US Patent 5,063,542 Petermann et al is that the expansible chambers are not fixed and precise control of the amplified linear displacement is therefore difficult. This concept of use of piezoelectric actuators in combination with hydraulic displacement amplifiers are further described in US Patent 5,074,654 Alden et al. and US Patent 5,697,554 Auwaerter et al. In Alden et al., a plurality of electrodistortive actuators coupled to a hydraulic displacement amplifier are used for the controlling of deformable mirrors. In Auwaerter et al., a metering valve for metering fluid for fuel injection uses a piezoelectric element coupled to a hydraulic displacement amplifier for the actuation of a valve needle to control the amount of fuel injected.

[0010] Therefore, a need clearly exists for a linear motor that applies piezoelectric elements having controllable displacement amplifiers to overcome or at least alleviate the problems of complexity, maintenance and mechanical failure in existing reciprocating compressors.

Summary of the Invention

[0011] The present invention seeks to provide a piezoelectric apparatus for use in fluid compressors and pumps.

[0012] Accordingly, in one aspect, the present invention provides a compressor having a piston cylinder assembly for successive suction and discharge of a compressible fluid, thereby increasing fluid pressure of the compressible fluid in a substantially closed chamber, wherein the piston cylinder assembly comprises a piston, a cylinder, a cylinder bore, a suction plenum having a suction valve, and a discharge plenum having a discharge valve, the compressor comprising: at least one piezoelectric element; a primary displacement member coupled to the at least one piezoelectric element; a secondary displacement member coupled to the piston; and a non-compressible fluid disposed to fill a fixed predetermined volume between the primary displacement member and the secondary displacement member; wherein electrical actuation of the at least one piezoelectric element is controllable to displace the primary displacement member by a predetermined distance, the predetermined distance being coupled via the non-compressible fluid to displace the secondary displacement member by an amplified distance based upon the fixed predetermined volume.

[0013] In another aspect, the present invention provides a compressor having a piston cylinder assembly for successive suction and discharge of a compressible fluid, thereby increasing fluid pressure of the compressible fluid in a substantially closed chamber, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly comprises a piston, a cylinder, a suction plenum having a suction valve, and a discharge plenum having a discharge valve, the compressor comprising: at least one piezoelectric element; a primary displacement member coupled to the at least one piezoelectric element; a secondary displacement member coupled to the piston; and a non-compressible fluid disposed to fill a fixed predetermined volume between the primary displacement member and the secondary displacement member; wherein, in response to electrical actuation of the at least one piezoelectric element,

displacement of the secondary displacement member is amplified relative to displacement of the primary displacement member, the displacements being based upon the fixed predetermined volume and surface areas of the primary displacement member and the secondary displacement member in contact with the non-compressible fluid.

[0014] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a fluid conveying apparatus having a piston cylinder assembly for successive suction and discharge of a fluid, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly comprises a piston, a cylinder, a suction plenum having a suction valve, and a discharge plenum having a discharge valve, the fluid conveying apparatus comprising: at least one piezoelectric element; a primary displacement member coupled to the at least one piezoelectric element; a secondary displacement member coupled to the piston; and a non-compressible fluid disposed to fill a fixed predetermined volume between the primary displacement member and the secondary displacement member; wherein, in response to electrical actuation of the at least one piezoelectric element, displacement of the secondary displacement member is amplified relative to displacement of the primary displacement member, the displacements being based upon the fixed predetermined volume and surface areas of the primary displacement member and the secondary displacement member in contact with the non-compressible fluid.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0015] A preferred embodiment and two alternate embodiments of the present invention is more fully described, by way of example, with reference to the drawings of which:

[0016] FIG.1 illustrates a prior art reciprocating compressor;

[0017] FIG. 2 illustrates a compressor in accordance with a first alternate embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 3 illustrates a compressor in accordance with a second alternate embodiment of the present invention; and

[0019] FIG. 4 illustrates a compressor in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed description of the Drawings

[0020] Referring to FIG.2, a piezo-compressor 100 according to a first embodiment of the present invention is shown. The piezo-compressor 100 comprises a piston cylinder assembly similar to that of conventional reciprocating compressors as shown in FIG.1. However, instead of the conventional linear reciprocating movement supplied by a rotary motor 19, crank 18 and connecting rod 17, the present piezo-compressor 100 utilizes at least one piezoelectric element 22 coupled directly to the piston 16.

[0021] When actuating electrical signals are supplied to the piezoelectric element 22, the piezoelectric element 22 is deformed to displace the piston 16 linearly by a predetermined distance upward (discharge stroke). This increases the fluid pressure in the cylinder bore 21 and opens the discharge valve 14 to discharge the compressible fluid from the cylinder bore 21 into the discharge plenum 12. The subsequent actuating electrical signals electrically actuate the piezoelectric element 22 to deform in a manner that displaces the piston 16 linearly downward by a predetermined distance (suction stroke). This lowers the fluid pressure in the cylinder bore 21 and opens the suction valve 13 thereby drawing the compressible fluid from the suction plenum 11 into the cylinder bore 21.

[0022] The actuating electrical signals supplied to the piezoelectric element 22 are typically in accordance with specifications governing use of the piezoelectric element 22. Such actuating electrical signals comprise a series of voltage or

current pulses of a predetermined amplitude for actuating of the piezoelectric element 22.

[0023] When such actuating electrical signals are supplied to the piezoelectric element 22 continuously, the piezoelectric element 22 is electrically actuated to reciprocally deform in a respective direction to execute either the suction stroke or the discharge stroke. This linear reciprocating movement of the piezoelectric element thus also causes the piston 16 to undergo the required linear reciprocating movement for the operation of the piezo-compressor 100. The operation of the piston cylinder assembly in the piezo-compressor 100 is similar to that of conventional reciprocating compressors. However, the piezo-compressor 100 advantageously has less moving parts and is less prone to mechanical failure. Such piezo-compressors could be advantageously utilized as mini or micro compressors for use in applications requiring continuous and constant dynamic operations while undergoing invariant loadings. Invariably, such piezo-compressors could also be advantageously utilized as fluid conveying apparatuses such as pumps. When used in applications as pumps, the fluid conveyed may be both compressible or non-compressible.

[0024] Referring to FIG.3, an improved piezo-compressor 200 according to a second embodiment of the present invention is shown. In addition to utilizing at least one piezoelectric element 22, a displacement amplifying means such as a spring 32 is added. Typical linear displacement achieved by piezoelectric elements are in the range of microns to millimeters. In certain applications, such small displacements do not constitute sufficient reciprocating linear movement to operate a piezo-compressor 100 at a high enough capacity. The spring 32 acts as a displacement amplifier that translates the linear reciprocating movement of the piezoelectric element 22 into an amplified linear reciprocating movement. Consequently, the linear reciprocating movement of the piston 16 is also amplified, thus increasing the volume of compressible fluid handled at each suction or discharge stroke thereby increasing the capacity of the piezo-compressor 200. However, the amplified linear reciprocating movement provided by such a spring

32 may not be well controlled and may develop harmonics which may eventually act against the linear reciprocating movement of the piezoelectric element 22. There is also dependency on the inherent mechanical spring constant of the spring 32, which may deteriorate with constant use.

[0025] Referring to FIG.4, a super piezo-compressor 300 according to a third embodiment of the present invention is shown. In addition to a desirability for having larger linear reciprocating movement of the piston 16, there is also a desirability for better control over the linear reciprocating movement of the piston 16. The super piezo-compressor 300 achieves this by utilizing a hydraulic displacement amplifier. The hydraulic displacement amplifier comprises a primary displacement member 46 coupled to the piezoelectric element 22, a secondary displacement member 44 coupled to the piston 16, a non-compressible fluid 45 disposed to fill a fixed predetermined volume between the primary displacement member 46 and the secondary displacement member 44. The non-compressible fluid 45 thus couples the primary displacement member 46 to the secondary displacement member 44. An example of such a non-compressible fluid 45 would be a hydraulic oil or a compressor lubricating oil. The secondary displacement member 44 is further coupled to the piston 16 by way of a piston rod 42. The surface area of the primary displacement member 46 in contact with the non-compressible fluid 45 is typically larger than that of the surface area of the secondary displacement member 44 in contact with the non-compressible fluid 45.

[0026] When actuating electrical signals are supplied to the piezoelectric element 22, the piezoelectric element 22 deforms and displaces the primary displacement member 46 by a small predetermined distance. However, the secondary displacement member 44 is displaced by an amplified predetermined distance through coupling with the non-compressible fluid 45 and thus also causes the piston 16 to be displaced by an amplified predetermined displacement via the piston rod 42. Amplification of displacement of the secondary displacement member is based upon the fixed predetermined volume and dimensions/surface

area of said primary displacement member and said secondary displacement member.

[0027] The relationship between the amplified displacement and the surface areas of the primary displacement member 46, the predetermined distance displaced by the primary displacement member 46 and the secondary displacement member 44 may be shown below:

$$[0028] \quad L = \frac{A}{a} \times l$$

[0029] Where L is the amplified displacement displaced by the secondary displacement member 44 and l is the predetermined distance displaced by the primary displacement member 46. Where A is the surface area of the primary displacement member 46 in contact with the non-compressible fluid 45 and a is the surface area of the secondary displacement member in contact with the non-compressible fluid 45.

[0030] A stopper 47 can further be coupled to a piston spring 43 which is further coupled to the secondary displacement member 44. The stopper 47, together with the piston spring 43 serves to assist in the linear reciprocating movement of the secondary displacement member 44. Consequently, this also assists in the linear reciprocating movement of the piston 16.

[0031] The hydraulic displacement amplifier does not merely provide for amplification of the linear displacement of the piezoelectric element 22. The hydraulic displacement amplifier also provides for better control of the linear reciprocating movement of the piston 16.

[0032] The piezo-compressors 100, 200, 300 described in FIG.2, FIG.3 and FIG.4 have been depicted and described in a vertical layout. They have also been described singularly. However, it would be obvious to a person skilled in the art to

operate the described piezo-compressors 100, 200, 300 in other orientations without departing from the scope of the invention. Further, that the piezo-compressors could also be used in plurality, in a variety of arrangements, and in applications other than compressors and pumps, without departing from the scope of the invention. It will be appreciated that various modifications and improvements can be made by a person skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. A compressor having a piston cylinder assembly for successive suction and discharge of a compressible fluid, thereby increasing fluid pressure of said compressible fluid in a substantially closed chamber, wherein said piston cylinder assembly comprises a piston, a cylinder, a cylinder bore, a suction plenum having a suction valve, and a discharge plenum having a discharge valve, said compressor comprising:
 - at least one piezoelectric element;
 - a primary displacement member coupled to said at least one piezoelectric element;
 - a secondary displacement member coupled to said piston; and
 - a non-compressible fluid disposed to fill a fixed predetermined volume between said primary displacement member and said secondary displacement member;wherein electrical actuation of said at least one piezoelectric element is controllable to displace said primary displacement member by a predetermined distance, said primary displacement member being coupled via said non-compressible fluid to displace said secondary displacement member by an amplified distance based upon said fixed predetermined volume.
2. A compressor in accordance to claim 1, wherein said at least one piezoelectric element is adapted to receive electrical signals for electrical actuation.
3. A compressor in accordance to claim 2, wherein said electrical signals comprises a series of voltage pulses.
4. A compressor in accordance to claim 2, wherein said electrical signals comprises a series of current pulses.
5. A compressor in accordance to claim 1, further comprising a stopper and a piston spring, said piston spring disposed between said stopper and said secondary displacement member.

6. A compressor in accordance to claim 1, wherein said non-compressible fluid comprises hydraulic oil or compressor lubricating oil.
7. A compressor in accordance to claim 1, wherein surface area of said primary displacement member in contact with said non-compressible fluid is larger than surface area of said secondary displacement member in contact with said non-compressible fluid.
8. A compressor having a piston cylinder assembly for successive suction and discharge of a compressible fluid, thereby increasing fluid pressure of said compressible fluid in a substantially closed chamber, wherein said piston and cylinder assembly comprises a piston, a cylinder, a suction plenum having a suction valve, and a discharge plenum having a discharge valve, said compressor comprising:
 - at least one piezoelectric element;
 - a primary displacement member coupled to said at least one piezoelectric element;
 - a secondary displacement member coupled to said piston; and
 - a non-compressible fluid disposed to fill a fixed predetermined volume between said primary displacement member and said secondary displacement member;wherein, in response to electrical actuation of said at least one piezoelectric element, displacement of said secondary displacement member is amplified relative to displacement of said primary displacement member, said displacements being based upon said fixed predetermined volume and surface areas of said primary displacement member and said secondary displacement member in contact with said non-compressible fluid.
9. A compressor in accordance to claim 8, wherein said at least one piezoelectric element is adapted to receive electrical signals for electrical actuation.
10. A compressor in accordance to claim 9, wherein said electrical signals comprises a series of voltage pulses.
11. A compressor in accordance to claim 9, wherein said electrical signals comprises a series of current pulses.

12. A compressor in accordance to claim 8, further comprising a stopper and a piston spring, said piston spring disposed between said stopper and said secondary displacement member.
13. A compressor in accordance to claim 8, wherein said non-compressible fluid comprises hydraulic oil or compressor lubricating oil.
14. A compressor in accordance to claim 8, wherein surface area of said primary displacement member in contact with said non-compressible fluid is larger than surface area of said secondary displacement member in contact with said non-compressible fluid.
15. A fluid conveying apparatus having a piston cylinder assembly for successive suction and discharge of a fluid, wherein said piston and cylinder assembly comprises a piston, a cylinder, a suction plenum having a suction valve, and a discharge plenum having a discharge valve, said fluid conveying apparatus comprising:
- at least one piezoelectric element;
 - a primary displacement member coupled to said at least one piezoelectric element;
 - a secondary displacement member coupled to said piston; and
 - a non-compressible fluid disposed to fill a fixed predetermined volume between said primary displacement member and said secondary displacement member;
- wherein, in response to electrical actuation of said at least one piezoelectric element, displacement of said secondary displacement member is amplified relative to displacement of said primary displacement member, said displacements being based upon said fixed predetermined volume and surface areas of said primary displacement member and said secondary displacement member in contact with said non-compressible fluid.
16. A fluid conveying apparatus in accordance to claim 15, wherein said at least one piezoelectric element is adapted to receive electrical signals for electrical actuation.
17. A fluid conveying apparatus in accordance to claim 16, wherein said electrical signals comprises a series of voltage pulses.

18. A fluid conveying apparatus in accordance to claim 16, wherein said electrical signals comprises a series of current pulses.

19. A fluid conveying apparatus in accordance to claim 15, further comprising a stopper and a piston spring, said piston spring disposed between said stopper and said secondary displacement member.

20. A fluid conveying apparatus in accordance to claim 15, wherein said non-compressible fluid comprises hydraulic oil or compressor lubricating oil.

21. A fluid conveying apparatus in accordance to claim 15, wherein surface area of said primary displacement member in contact with said non-compressible fluid is larger than surface area of said secondary displacement member in contact with said non-compressible fluid.



PIEZO-ELECTRIC COMPRESSOR WITH DISPLACEMENT AMPLIFIER



ABSTRACT

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[0033] A compressor for successive suction and discharge of a compressible fluid, thereby increasing fluid pressure of the compressible fluid in a substantially closed chamber, the compressor comprising: at least one piezoelectric element; a primary displacement member coupled to the at least one piezoelectric element; a secondary displacement member coupled to the piston; and a non-compressible fluid disposed to fill a fixed predetermined volume between the primary displacement member and the secondary displacement member; wherein electrical actuation of the at least one piezoelectric element is controllable to displace the primary displacement member by a predetermined distance, the predetermined distance being coupled via the non-compressible fluid to displace the secondary displacement member by an amplified distance based upon the fixed predetermined volume.

[0034] FIG.4 accompanies the abstract.



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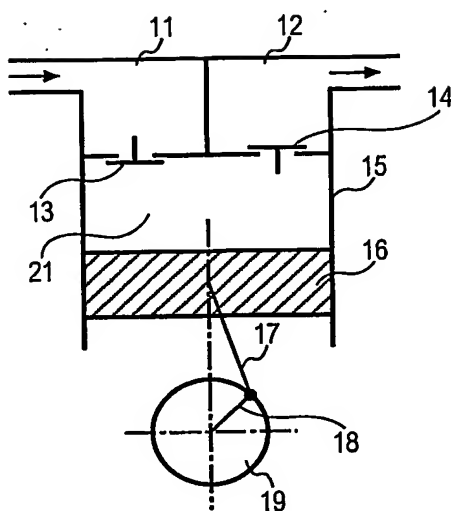


FIG. 1

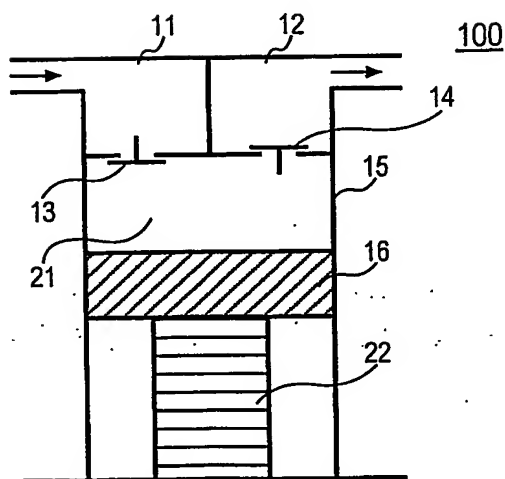


FIG. 2

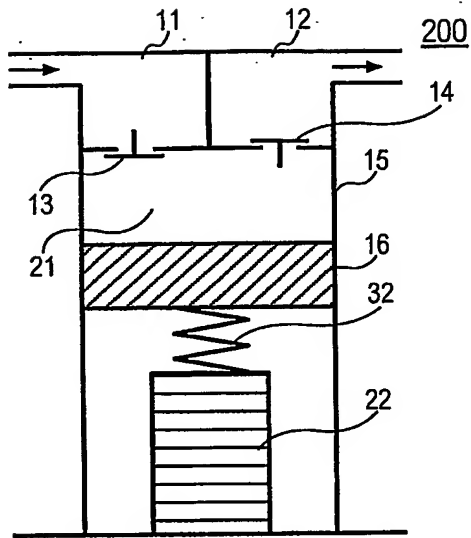


FIG. 3

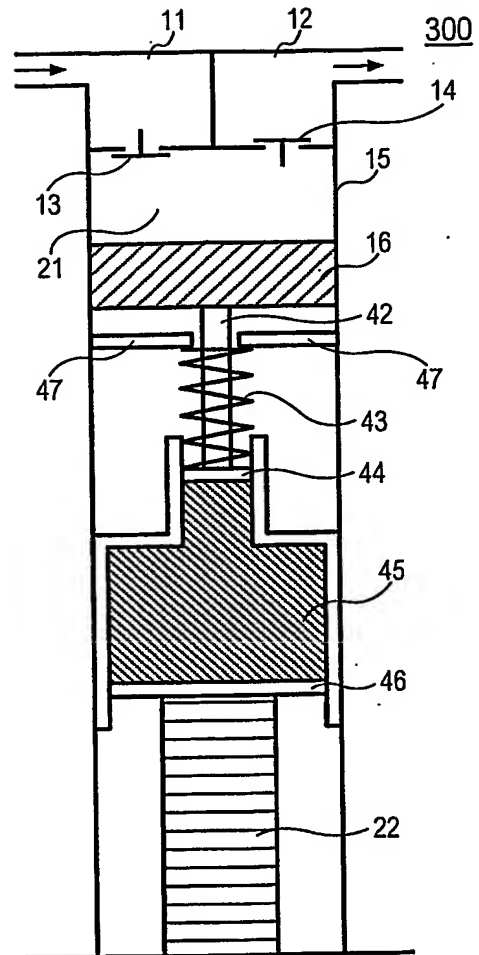


FIG. 4